

Remarks

With respect to the rejection of claims 4-5 and 14-17 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as allegedly being indefinite, Applicants respectfully traverse. This rejection has been rendered moot by the amendments to claims 1 and 14-17. The Amendment to claim 1 specifically adds the term “membrane” to claim 1, and thus there is now antecedent basis for the term “said membrane” in claims 4-5. With respect to claims 14-17, the term “means” has been amended to read “means for holding said bars together” so as to clearly indicate which means is intended.

With respect to the objection to claim 2 as being a substantial duplicate of claim 1, Applicants respectfully traverse. This rejection has been rendered moot by the amendment to claim 1 incorporating the entirety of claim 2 therein. Moreover, claim 2 is also cancelled herewith.

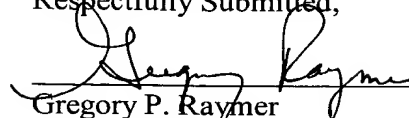
With respect to the rejection of claims 1-5, 7, 10-12, and 14 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly being obvious over U.S. Patent 3,623,611 in view of the Harvard/Amika Interaction Studies brochure, Applicants respectfully traverse. The undersigned called the Examiner to request a copy of the Harvard/Amika reference, as none was received with the Office Action. At the same time, the undersigned requested information on the publication date of this reference, as no date was indicated on the Form PTO-892 Notice of References Cited. The Examiner indicated that the exact publication date was not apparent. As such, this reference cannot properly be considered as prior art to the present application, and thus the present rejection cannot stand. If the Examiner should find evidence that the instant reference was published prior to Applicants’ filing date, it is requested that Applicants be supplied with a copy of the reference and the evidence.

It is believed that the present case is now in condition for allowance, and such action by the Examiner is earnestly solicited.

Date: 5/7/03

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Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gregory P. Raymer", written over a horizontal line.

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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

In the Claims:

1. An equilibrium dialysis apparatus comprising:
a body, comprising a top surface having a first plane and a bottom surface having a second plane, in which body is contained at least one testing well, each of which well is separated into a first side and a second side, by means for vertically separating the well, such that both of said sides of each well are fully open and accessible from the top surface of the body and closed on said bottom surface, wherein said body of the device comprises the material polytetrafluoroethylene.

39. An equilibrium dialysis apparatus comprising:
a body, comprising a top surface having a first plane and a bottom surface having a second plane, in which body is contained at least one testing well, each of which well is separated into a first side and a second side, by means for vertically separating the well, such that both of said sides of each well are fully open and accessible from the top surface of the body and closed on said bottom surface, wherein said body comprises ninety-six wells arranged in an 8x12 array.